

PROOF OF PUBLIC CONFIDENCE

The Number of Policies in force is greater than that of any other Company in America and greater than that of all the Regular Life Insurance Companies put together (less one) and can only be appreciated by comparison. It is a greater number than the COMBINED POPULATION of Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Delaware, Florida, Colorado, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming, Nevada, Montana, Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Alaska, Arizona, New Mexico, District of Columbia, Indian Territory, Oklahoma, Hawaii; or as to CITIES it is as many as the population of Greater New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston and St. Louis combined.

This Company has more premium-paying business in force in the United States than any other Company, and for each of the last 10 years has had more New Insurances accepted and issued than any other Company in the World.

ASSETS - - \$105,656,311.60



Largest Office Building in the World—Madison Avenue, Fourth Avenue, 23rd Street and 24th Street, New York City.

HOME OFFICE OF THE

Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.

(INCORPORATED BY THE STATE OF NEW YORK)

'The Company OF the People, BY the People, FOR the People

ASSETS

United States, City and R. R.	
Bonds and Stocks	\$48,175,913.27
Bonds and Mortgages	31,814,193.06
Real Estate	14,835,140.61
Cash	5,301,220.90
Loans to Policyholders	1,850,144.14
Premiums, deferred, and in course of collection (Net)	3,000,401.30
Accrued Interest, Rents, etc.	679,298.32
	\$105,656,311.60

LIABILITIES

Reinsurance Fund and Special Reserves	\$94,008,251.00
All other Liabilities	956,188.04
Capital and Surplus	10,691,872.56
	\$105,656,311.60

Paid to Policyholders since Organization, plus the Amount now Invested for their Security,	\$238,295,968.84	Number of Policies in Force	7,523,915
Amount of Outstanding Insurance	\$1,342,381,457.00	Amount of Insurance Issued in 1903	\$398,889,074.00

Its Ordinary Department policies are issued for from \$1,000 to \$1,000,000 on individual lives, premiums payable annually, semi-annually and quarterly. In its Industrial Department policies are issued on all the insurable members of the family for weekly premiums.

THIS COMPANY'S POLICIES ARE PLAIN BUSINESS CONTRACTS WHICH TELL THEIR WHOLE STORY UPON THEIR FACE; LEAVE NOTHING TO THE IMAGINATION; BORROW NOTHING FROM HOPE; REQUIRE DEFINITE CONDITIONS AND MAKE DEFINITE PROMISES IN DOLLARS AND CENTS.

RECORD OF GROWTH IN TEN YEAR PERIODS

INCOME	ASSETS	SURPLUS	POLICIES IN FORCE	OUTSTANDING INSURANCE
1893—\$2,082,619.05	\$2,186,622.24	\$627,368.24	531,048	\$63,425,107.00—1893
1898—15,216,236.65	19,343,705.06	4,109,689.92	2,940,226	353,177,217.00—1898
1903—49,887,804.11	105,656,311.60	10,691,872.56	7,523,915	1,342,381,457.00—1903

JOHN E. HARDING, Supt.—Smithfield Building, Broad & 9th Sts., Richmond, Va.

ROBERT W. SMETHIE, Assistant Supt. 17 East Tenth Street, Manchester, Va.

ROBERT E. MALONE, Assistant Supt. 4 Sycamore Street, Petersburg, Va.

HARRY B. ROGERSON, Assistant Supt.

SIGNIFICANT FACTS

This Company's Policy-claims paid in 1903 averaged in number one for each minute and a third of each business day of 8 hours each, and, in amount, \$89.00 a minute the year through.

THE DAILY AVERAGE OF THE COMPANY'S BUSINESS DURING 1903 WAS:

\$59 per day in Number of Claims Paid.
\$2,297 per day in Number of Policies Issued.
\$1,303,559.06 per day in New Insurance Written.
\$98,582.76 per day in Payments to Policyholders and addition to Reserve.
\$53,841.18 per day in Increase of Assets.

Income in 1903.....\$49,887,804.11
Gain over 1902.....6,551,520.50
Asset increase in 1903.....18,475,402.61

OFFICERS:

John R. Hegeman, President	Haley Fiske, Vice-President
George H. Gaston, Second Vice-Pres.	George B. Woodward, Third Vice-Pres.
Frank O. Ayres, Fourth Vice-Pres.	James M. Craig, Actuary
James S. Roberts, Secretary	John R. Hegeman, Jr., Assistant Sec.
J. J. Thompson, Cashier and Asst. Sec.	T. R. Richardson, Assistant Sec.
Stewart L. Woodford, Counsel	Thomas H. Willard, M.D., Medical Director
Augustus S. Knight, M.D., Asst. Medical Director	W. S. Manners, M.D., Asst. Medical Director
E. M. Holden, M.D., Asst. Medical Director	

I. J. Cahen, Manager Ordinary Department.

DIRECTORS:

John R. Hegeman,	Silas B. Dutcher,
Thomas L. James,	John M. Crane,
Edward C. Wallace,	Joseph P. Knapp,
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Frank H. Major,	John A. McCall,
James M. Craig,	George B. Woodward,
Samuel S. Beard,	John R. Hegeman, Jr.,
	Thomas G. Ritch,

THE INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY-SCHOOL LESSON

FOR FEBRUARY 21, 1904.

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST.

Subject: Jesus and the Sabbath.—Matt. xii: 1-13.
Golden Text: It is lawful to do well on the Sabbath Day.—Matt. xii: 12.

By Rev. J. E. Gilbert, D. D., Secretary of American Society of Religious Education

CONTEXT.—Intellectual pride is often the chief infirmity of the educated man, producing jealousy toward their superiors that sometimes results in enmity. This was the effect upon the minds of the scribes who were boastful of their learning, and who were so successfully answered by Jesus in the case of the paralytic, studied in last Sunday's lesson. Thereafter they pursued Him with public hostility, hoping to ensnare Him in his teachings. All this comes out between the former lesson and the lesson of today. The events were the call of Matthew, the question about fasting, the infirm man cured at Bethesda, part occurring in Galilee and part occurring in Judea. At every step until the death on the cross these enemies and critics gathered about the Saviour to destroy or weaken His influence with the people and to put obstacles in the way of His great work. In today's lesson we shall see how they presented questions concerning the Sabbath question, raised in a former incident, and how Jesus replied.

OCCASION.—Jesus and His disciples were on a journey, returning to Capernaum after a successful ministry in the neighboring villages. They passed through a cornfield, what we call a wheatfield—their corn was not like our maize. This walk was allowable up to a distance of two thousand yards, a Sabbath Day's journey. (Acts 1:12). The disciples became hungry. There is no evidence that Jesus felt the need of any food. He may have been supernaturally sustained, or He may have suppressed any discomfort experienced. It is certain that He was power over bodily conditions. (Matt. 17:27) Hence, while He passed on His way the disciples plucked the ripened corn, rubbed it in their hands, blew away the chaff, and ate. (Verse 1.) This was no trespass, but a liberty allowed to travelers under the law. (Deut. xlii:25.) A very wise and gracious provision it was, in that country, with its popular modes of travel and its system of public inns. The disciples evidently felt that there was no offense in their conduct; probably they had done the same thing many times.

CRITICISM.—Instantly the Pharisees gathered about our Lord. They had followed Him wherever He went, keeping a constant espionage upon His actions in the synagogues, in the feasts, in the cities, at the seashore and in the fields they watched, reproached, tempted and insulted Him. On the slightest pretext they sought to arraign Him at the bar of public opinion and to destroy His growing influence with the masses. Now they think they have blew away the chaff, and they openly declare that the disciples have done what was unlawful.

set aside the seventh day and appoint another.

ENMITY.—The Pharisees were silenced because there was nothing further for them to say, but their opposition was increased. They saw plainly that the Master was superior to them, they hated Him for that reason, and determined to find some mode of accusing Him to the authorities. The occasion was soon presented. The whole company moved on, entered Capernaum, and went into the synagogue. (Verse 3.) There was found a man with a withered hand—the affliction of those days were accustomed to visit places of worship that they might appeal for aid. (Acts 13:12.) Here is Pharisee opportunity. Drawing near, the question is gently put to Jesus: "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath day?" (Luke xiii:14.) That appeared like confessed ignorance in their presence, acknowledged wisdom. It was intended to be a snare. Knowing the goodness of the Saviour's heart, and remembering His many cures, they expected to provoke Him into an act that would warrant a legal process against Him. (Verse 14.) Rejoicing over the prospect of the rabbi, they held that the fourth commandment (Ex. xx:9) forbade even acts of mercy, they expected an easy conviction.

RESPONSE.—This new phase of the Sabbath question was met first in the concrete and second in the abstract. (Verses 10 and 11.) Turning to the Pharisees, Jesus asked if any of them would hesitate to pull his sheep out of a pit into which it had fallen on the Sabbath. That appealed to them and they could not answer. Every man will protect his property. The Pharisees here felt the force of the inquiry, even though ignorant of the law. (Ex. xxii:5) twice given. (Deut. xxi:4.) Receiving no reply, Jesus asked, "How much better is a man than a sheep?" Will you save a beast and leave a man in disease and pain? The far-reaching influence of the Saviour's question can hardly be known. It revealed the hypocrisy of His enemies, and laid the basis of humanitarianism in all after centuries. The interview closed with a great moral truth, the positive side of religion. Jesus said in that day, "I have felt the force of the inquiry, even though ignorant of the law. (Ex. xxii:5) twice given. 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